MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not a case of habitual dissemination of false report.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was it not a false report?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, it was false at the time.

Revised Ryots' Roads Rules.

125. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the draft of the revised rules for ryots' roads were received by the Government from the Chief Engineer;

(*b*) why no orders have yet been passed thereon;

(*c*) how far the draft has been modified by the suggestions of non-official gentlemen on the subject; and

(*d*) whether an opportunity will be given to this Council to express its views on the draft rules before the Government finally adopt the rules?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In September 1926.

(*b*) and (*c*) They are under scrutiny.

(*d*) The draft rules will be published in the *Gazette* for public criticism before they are finally passed.

Report of the Navigation Special Officer.

126. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the report of the Navigation Special Officer was submitted to them;

(*b*) the action taken on it; and

(*c*) whether any practical measure will be taken in hand in 1103 in respect of the Pamba and Manimala rivers as a result of the recommendations of the officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In July 1926.

(*b*) Copies are being printed with a view to circulate the proposals in the report for the opinion of the Revenue and other departments.

(*c*) It is not possible to make any statement on the point now.

The Village Panchayat Regulation.

127. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) when the Village Panchayat Bill was passed by the Council;

(2) why it has not yet been brought into operation in any part of Travancore; and

(3) whether the Government have changed their opinion about the desirability of bringing the Regulation into operation?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) The Village Panchayat Bill was passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 13th February 1925/2nd Kumbham 1100, and it became law on the 1st Chingam 1101.

(2) and (3) Rules have first to be framed under Section 62 of the Regulation, before the Regulation can be brought into force. The draft rules framed by the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil have been received and are being examined.

Provision for the care of Lepers, etc.

128. **MR. C. P. THOMAS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to take early steps for making more adequate provision or the care of lepers, incurables, the maimed and the utterly indigent section of the population in the State?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The question will be examined.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE DEBATE.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I have a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House.

PRESIDENT: I have just received a note from Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai in which he begs leave to make a motion "for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the situation created by the unwarranted and unworthy aspersions cast on the public men of the State by the speech which the President thought fit to deliver last evening in winding up the debate about the assignment of lands to non-Travancoreans and the sneering and discourteous tone in which the President referred to the successful public agitation that was carried on against Mr. Watts' Brooke Bond Scheme."

To begin with, I am not aware of any situation having been created. Secondly, the statement is vague and is not a definite matter of urgent public importance. In the third place, it is a thing of the past and therefore it does not come within the purview of the rule permitting the adjournment of the business of the House. I am therefore unable to allow the discussion of the motion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In that case, Sir, would any event which took place yesterday be considered a matter of urgent public importance?

PRESIDENT: It all depends upon the circumstances of the case.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND IV—INCOME-TAX—RS. '32 LAKH.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. '32 lakh under Demand IV—Income Tax.

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